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SUBJECT: U.S. AND HUNGARY SIGN NEW BILATERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 6731

¶1. On February 4, the United States and Hungary signed a new bilateral Science and Technology (S&T) agreement, superseding the existing S&T agreement of March 2000. Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis signed for the U.S. and Minister for National Development and Economy, Istvan Varga, signed on behalf of Hungary. The new agreement marks an important milestone in the rich history of U.S.-Hungarian scientific cooperation and will provide the legal framework for continued agency-to-agency collaboration across a broad range of scientific disciplines.

¶2. The signing took place in Hungary's historic Parliament building, and was part of a combined ceremony that also saw the signing of a new U.S.-Hungary Tax Treaty (septel). The Hungarian Parliament is expected to approve the S&T agreement during its upcoming session later this month, after which President Solyom is expected to sign it. The agreement will come into force 30 days after both sides have notified each other in writing that all required internal legal procedures have been completed.

¶3. Post wishes to thank all in Washington who contributed to this effort, in particular OES/STC's Beth Daugharty and L/OES's Sam McDonald for their excellent work to bring the long negotiating process to a successful close on January 8 during the visit of a GOH delegation to Washington. Post looks forward to working with OES and other USG agencies in the months ahead as we work with the Hungarians to implement this new agreement.

KOUNALAKIS